

House Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter announced that a unique collection of documents and letters from former President Franklin D. Roosevelt will be made public at the National Archives on July 28.

The arrangement was brought about after Slaughter introduced legislation to provide for the transfer of the papers from a private collection to the government, so scholars and average Americans can enjoy them. Slaughter's bill was approved by the House earlier this year and signed into law by President Obama.

"This incredible collection is far too valuable to be locked up away from public view," said Slaughter. "These papers will add to our understanding and appreciation of one of the greatest presidents. Like other students of history, I am excited to be able to see an original draft copy of President Roosevelt's speech to the 1936 Democratic Convention in which he famously said that 'This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny.' I am pleased this transfer is happening so quickly and appreciate the cooperation of the National Park Service, the National Archives and Rep. Ed Townes, who helped move my bill to the floor quickly."

The collection includes personal correspondence that discussed the creation of Social Security and other programs that were integral to the New Deal. The collection also includes draft copy of the President's 1941 address to a joint session of Congress. The hand written notes on the draft discuss the attack on Pearl Harbor and the President's timeless statement that December 7, 1941 was a "date which will live in infamy."

The collection, known as the Grace Tully papers after Roosevelt's longtime secretary who held onto them, will be held at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, July 28, at 10 a.m.

Joining Slaughter at the ceremony will be the Archivist of the United States and Cynthia Koch, the Director of the FDR Library, among others.